

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wildfeuer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,055) in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,882). Of the Claims, Claims 1, 7, 14, 19 and 20 are independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

**Common Ownership**

The above-referenced application (Application No. 09/484,159) and Wildfeuer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,055) were at the time the invention of the above-referenced application (Application No. 09/484,159) was made, owned by Cisco Technology, Inc. Thus, Wildfeuer is disqualified as prior art under U.S.C. § 103 (c). (See MPEP § 706.02(1)(1) - § 706.02(1)(3).)

In view of the foregoing, removal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and acceptance of Claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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